

**CLAIMS**

1. An intra-vascular balloon, comprising:  
a balloon body; and  
5 at least one springy and elongate stave attached to said balloon and conforming to a surface of said balloon, such that said stave can apply contact force to an object in contact with said balloon.
2. A balloon according to claim 1, wherein said balloon is elongate and wherein said stave  
10 is provided along a long dimension of said balloon.
3. A balloon according to claim 1, comprising a tether attached to said balloon.
4. A balloon according to claim 1, wherein said at least one stave comprise a plurality of  
15 staves arranged around said balloon.
5. A balloon according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of staves are attached to each other at their ends.
- 20 6. A balloon according to claim 5, wherein said staves modify a geometry of said balloon when not inflated.
7. A balloon according to claim 6, wherein said staves are configured to compact said balloon in a resting condition thereof.  
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8. A balloon according to claim 6, wherein said staves are configured to apply radially outwards pressure in a resting condition thereof.
9. A balloon according to claim 5, wherein said staves are distortable by an expansion of  
30 said balloon.
10. A balloon according to claim 1, wherein said balloon is formed of an elastic material.

11. A balloon according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of staves are configured to substantially surround said balloon when said balloon is collapsed.
12. A vascular implant, comprising:  
5 a flexible band having a diameter suitable for implantation in a blood vessel; and  
a plurality of elongate axial elements mounted on said band.
13. An implant according to claim 12, wherein said flexible band is thin.
- 10 14. An implant according to claim 12, wherein said flexible band has a thickness suitable for restricting blood flow
- 15 15. An implant according to claim 12, wherein said flexible band has a length substantially smaller than a length of said elements.
16. An implant according to claim 12, wherein said flexible band is elastic.
17. A blood flow reducing implant, comprising a body defining a flow channel having an cross-section which is progressively restricted along an axial direction, in which the smallest  
20 diameter of a cross-section is sized for passage of a guidewire and blockage of substantially all blood-flow therethrough.
18. An implant according to claim 17, wherein said cross-section is monotonically restricted along said direction.
- 25 19. An implant according to claim 17, wherein said smallest diameter blocks over 95% of blood flow through said implant.
20. An implant according to claim 17, wherein said smallest diameter is restricted by an  
30 elastic sheath.